Air Pollution Control Technology Memorandums

MEMORANDUM

TO: Developers and Vendors of Filter Bags

FROM: Jack R. Farmer, Project Manager, Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) Air Pollution Control Technology Program

SUBJECT: Fine Particulate Matter Control Technology

DATE: March 12, 1998

On March 10, 1998, a memo was sent to everyone in our Developers and Vendors of Air Pollution Control Technology database on the first Stakeholders Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting held February 12-13. Today's memo is being distributed only to the Developers and Vendors of Filter Bags.

As a result of the SAC meeting, paint overspray arrestors have been selected as the first technology for verification testing. During the SAC meeting, some members expressed a strong interest in considering control systems for fine particulate matter as candidates for verification testing in the second group, because the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently issued a new National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for PM2.5. During the discussion, the following points were made:

- Because of the uncertainties associated with the new PM2.5 NAAQS, EPA is not expected to impose any new emission requirements for PM2.5 before 2002
- Although EPA is not expected to impose any new permitting requirements for fine particles in the near future, existing emission limits will remain in place, and course particulate matter will be used as a surrogate for fine particulate matter. Sources will continue to install new fabric filters and replace filters in existing baghouses.
- Owners and operators would like to have more information on the effectiveness of various fabric materials in removing fine particles so that they could make better decisions in fabric selection relative to fine particle control.
- No Reference Method has been adopted by EPA to measure emissions of fine particulate matter.
- A test procedure similar to Method 319 for paint overspray arrestors could be used to determine the relative effectiveness of various fabrics in removing fine particles.
- A bag filter vendor submitted a fabric material as one of the first 12 candidate technologies considered for the first verification testing.

RTI is following up on this discussion to determine whether there is enough interest by the Developers and Vendors of Filter Bags to initiate a verification testing program for filter media fine particle removal effectiveness. If a program were started, RTI would select a Technical Panel (TP) of experts on Filter Bag performance testing, prepare a draft test protocol, have the TP review the protocol and reach a consensus on a satisfactory protocol for testing. Except for the travel expenses by the TP, RTI's funding from EPA would cover funding for this effort.

All Filter Bag Developers and Vendors would be offered a chance to have their filter bag material tested. Test costs would be covered partially by EPA funds and the remainder by the Developers and Vendors. The cost share would be determined based on the number of Developers and Vendors participating and the cost of each test.

We would appreciate it if you would contact us and advise us of your interest, or lack of interest in this concept. We would like both positive and negative input. If you have questions, please contact Doug VanOsdell at 919-541-6785 or email dwv@rti.org.

If you are definitely interested and wish to submit a filter bag material as a candidate for testing, please use the Candidate Technology submittal form. It is available in PDF format at the website http://etv.rti.org/apct/tech/candidates.pdf . The form requires an Adobe Acrobat reader; if you do not already have the software, you can link to the Adobe site and download it for free. Forms should be submitted by April 1 for consideration at the next Stakeholders Advisory Committee meeting, scheduled for May 20, 1998.

(More information about the APCT ETV program is available at http://etv.rti.org/apct .)

If you have any other questions, please contact Jack Farmer: email, jrf@rti.org; telephone, (919) 541-6909; or fax, (919) 541-6936. Thank you.